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May 1, 1936

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Mr. F. Emerson Wilson
News-Journal Co.
Girard and Orange Sts.,
Wilmington, Del.

Dear Emmy,

As I told you when we spoke several weeks ago, it has always been my desire for my book to have a chance to stand on its own feet. Maybe I chopped the feet off at the knees, but here it is. This, of course, is the least desirable form but it had become the only alternative to nothing. The Preface explains.

I am writing these letters in advance, for I have no staff, not public relations or advertising funds - really, I have nothing but the book, handicapped as it is, and the respect of a number of prominent U.S. and European correspondents who have read it. Gadi to have the advantages of Don Quixote!

This is not an effort to avoid commercial publication. Rather I hope, with a moderate success, to attract it. Some of the excerpted publishers' letters will indicate the possibility, if the fear is overcome.

Please forgive the adjectives I didn't have time to edit out, the tenses I never got around to untwisting, and concentrate on the subject matter. You do not really get into it until you hit chapter 6, but the rest was, in my opinion, necessary. Most have found even the early chapters interesting. The charts and pictures, save the one so identified, are not covered by copyrights, and that one belongs to the AP. They distributed it to their members, the day after the assassination, if my recollection is correct.

This is all original work. A year ago I calculated that we then had about 7,000 hours in the book, which was finished, save for a few slight recent additions, by mid-February 1935.

I hope you regard it as important and worthwhile, that you will say so out loud, and that despite the unique form (which I hope will make it attractive because of its unusual character) you will say so and Greenwood will want it. We have not as yet arranged any distribution, although a large D.C. bookstore, which is quite excited about it, is going to speak to two distributors. If they will take it, on consignment at the regular discounts, I'll ship promptly. Perhaps the local angle - a boyhood customer - will appeal to them. I'll send them an extra copy for cutting up into a display of the exhibits, if they'd like. In any event, thanks for anything you feel you can do, and I would like your comments.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg